

Docket No. 15162/03520

3/18  
PAT 4-1-03



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. Application of:

Toshiyuki TANAKA, Yasuhiro MORIMOTO,

Hiroaki KUBO, and Masahito NIIKAWA

For:

ELECTRONIC CAMERA

Confirmation No.:

3597

U.S. Serial No.:

09/834,165

Filed:

April 12, 2001

Group Art Unit:

2871

Examiner:

To Be Assigned

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Assistant Commissioner

for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

March 12, 2003

Date of Deposit

Kathy E. Needleman

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative

*Kathy Needleman*  
Signature

March 12, 2003

Date of Signature

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend this Application as follows:

This Preliminary Amendment has been prepared in accordance with the Revised Amendment Format as set forth in the USPTO OG notice "Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted" of February 25, 2003.

Please amend this Application as follows:

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25. (New) An electronic camera comprising:  
a display for displaying an image of a subject;  
a detector for detecting environment light; and  
a corrector for correcting an image displayed on said display by changing a display characteristic of the image displayed on said display in accordance with a state of the environment light detected by said detector;

wherein said corrector increases brightness of an image displayed on said display as brightness of said environment light increases.

26. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 25, further comprising an ocular for making the user visually recognize an image displayed on said display.

27. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 25, further comprising an image pickup device for capturing an image of a subject,  
wherein said detector detects brightness of environment light from exposure time, incident light amount, and sensitivity of said image pickup device.

28. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 25, further comprising an image pickup device for capturing an image of a subject,  
wherein said detector is a sensor different from said image pickup device.

29. (New) An electronic camera comprising:  
a display for displaying an image of a subject;  
a detector for detecting environment light; and  
a corrector for correcting an image displayed on said display by changing a display characteristic of the image displayed on said display in accordance with a state of the environment light detected by said detector,

wherein said corrector changes hue of an image displayed on said display in the direction same as hue of said environment light.

30. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 29, further comprising an ocular for making the user visually recognize an image displayed on said display.

31. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 29, wherein said detector detects said environment light based on the result of adjustment obtained by a white balance adjusting circuit.

32. (New) An electronic camera comprising:  
a first display capable of electrically displaying a captured image;  
a second display capable of electrically displaying a captured image in a display mode different from that of said first display;  
a detector for detecting a state of environment light; and  
a controller for changing a display state of at least one of said first and second displays in accordance with the state of the environment light detected by said detector;  
and

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only  
a discriminator for discriminating whether or not brightness of said environment light is higher than a predetermined value,

wherein when it is discriminated by said discriminator that the brightness of said environment light is higher than said predetermined value, said controller displays indication on said second display to notify the user to change said first display to a displayable state.

33. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 32, wherein said first display has an ocular for making the user visually recognize an image displayed.

34. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 32, further comprising an image pickup device for capturing an image of a subject,

wherein said detector detects brightness of environment light from exposure time, incident light amount, and sensitivity of said image pickup device.

35. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 32, further comprising an image pickup device for capturing an image of a subject,

wherein said detector is a sensor different from said image pickup device.

36. (New) An electronic camera capable of emitting flash light with which a subject is irradiated, comprising:

an image pickup device for capturing an image of the subject;

a first display capable of electrically displaying the image of the subject captured by said image pickup device;

a second display capable of electrically displaying the image of the subject captured by said image pickup device in a display mode different from that of said first display;

a detector for detecting environment light;

a determiner for determining whether or not it is necessary to emit flash light based on the result of detection obtained by said detector; and

a controller for controlling display on said first and second displays,

wherein when said determiner determines that it is necessary to emit said flash light, said controller displays the image of the subject irradiated with said flash light onto said first display, and displays the image of the subject captured by said image pickup device onto said second display in predetermined cycles.

37. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 36, wherein said first display has an ocular for making the user visually recognize an image displayed.

38. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 37, wherein said controller displays the image of the subject irradiated with said flash light onto said first display for a predetermined period.

39. (New) An electronic camera comprising:

a first display capable of electrically displaying a captured image;

a second display capable of electrically displaying the captured image in a display mode different from that of said first display;

a detector for detecting environment light;

a comparator for comparing brightness of said environment light detected by said detector with a predetermined value; and

an adjuster for adjusting a gain of an image displayed on said first display and a gain of an image displayed on said second display,

wherein said adjuster amplifies the image displayed on said first display by a first gain and amplifies the image displayed on said second display by a second gain different from said first gain, based on the result of comparison obtained by said comparator.

40. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 39, wherein said first display includes an ocular for making the user visually recognize an image displayed.

41. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 40, wherein when the result of comparison obtained by said comparator shows that brightness of said environment light is lower than said predetermined value, said adjuster adjusts said first gain to a value lower than said second gain.

42. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 40, wherein when the result of comparison obtained by said comparator shows that brightness of said environment light is higher than said predetermined value, said adjuster adjusts said first gain to a value lower than said second gain.

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